REMARKS

Claims 22-33 are presently active.

In the Office Action dated 20 May 2003 ("Office Action"), claims 22-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Douglas, III, US patent 6,232,814 ("Douglas").

Applicants respectfully believe that Douglas is not applicable to the presently claimed invention. Figures 1A and 1B of Douglas were referred to in the Office Action. Upon reading the first three paragraphs of the Detailed Description of Douglas, column 2, the principle function of Figs. 1A and 1B may be easily understood. Four "groups" of transistors are described. A first group of pull-up pMOSFETs to drive a high bit on the transmission line, and a second group of pull-down nMOSFETs to drive a low bit on the transmission line. There are also third and fourth groups, where referring to column 2, beginning on about line 27, "The third and fourth groups include p-channel and n-channel terminating transistors, respectively, configured to terminate the line by pulling the line up and down simultaneously."

The first and second groups are used to drive the transmission line. Note that to drive the transmission line high, some of the pMOSFETs in the first group [the term "selected p-channel driving transistors" is used in Douglas] are turned ON and all of the nMOSFETs in the second group are turned OFF. Likewise, to drive the transmission line low, some of the nMOSFETs in the second group are turned ON and all of the pMOSFETs in the first group are turned OFF. (See second paragraph under Detailed Description, column 2.)

To drive the transmission low, the reason that all of the pMOSFETs in the first group need to be OFF and some of the nMOSFETs in the second group need to turn ON is because the transmission line does not have a quiescent voltage at ground voltage. Note that, as emphasized earlier, the third and fourth groups are ON simultaneously. These two groups terminate the transmission line to reduce reflections. But because both second and third groups of transistors are ON simultaneously, the quiescent voltage of the transmission line will not be at ground voltage. (It will be somewhere between high and

low.) That is, when the first and second group of transistors are not busy driving the transmission line, the voltage of the transmission line will not settle to ground voltage.

All of the presently active claims recite that the transmission line has a quiescent voltage at ground voltage. Therefore, Douglas does not teach this important claim limitation.

Respectfully submitted,

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